

Proposal Submitted to the

ROGER WILLIAMS STRAUS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

on behalf of

WORLD BROTHERHOOD

JULY 1959

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WORLD BROTHERHOOD  
1000 17th St. N.W.  
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## THE ROGER WILLIAMS STRAUS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

### INTRODUCTION

The project here proposed by World Brotherhood has been prepared in the belief that the Roger Williams Straus Memorial Foundation is ready for a major effort in keeping with the practical idealism which governed Mr. Straus' lifetime public service. This plan involves a distinguished series of international, national and regional seminars and conferences, to be held in cooperation with a number of universities and other public institutions. It offers exceptional opportunities for public leadership by the Foundation in a period of great national and world-wide social change. But no merely spectacular "crash program" is contemplated. Rather, the intention is to use each working conference as a means of initiating a continuing program of research, teaching and activities at the selected universities. The project as a whole would cover a three-year period, but the Foundation is requested to make a commitment for one year only, renewing its support on the basis of the success and public recognition we confidently expect as a result of the first year's activities.

The proposed events will lead themselves to coverage by the press, radio, film, and television, regionally as well as internationally. In the permanent form of published reports, books, and films, the results of the program will have enduring impact upon men's minds. Through the plan herein suggested the Foundation would become widely known as a constructive force in "building understanding and furthering universal peace and brotherhood" to which this Foundation is dedicated in its own constitution.

**RELATION OF THE PROJECT  
TO THE LIFE-LONG INTERESTS OF ROGER WILLIAMS STRAUS**

More people are consciously engaged in the evolution of human dignity and rights coupled with the development of economic and social justice than ever before in history. The late Roger Williams Straus had an absorbing interest in this struggle, particularly in the area of Judeo-Christian and international relationships. Mr. Straus allied himself with Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes' campaign against "rancor and animosity", with historian Carlton J. A. Hayes' studies of nationalism and cultural pluralism, and with statesman Newton D. Baker's tireless efforts for friendly cooperation of peoples in a league or association of nations to carry on the great endeavor.

With a small company, chiefly in the Federal Council of Churches, Mr. Straus invented in 1926 the technique of "conferences" for Protestants, Catholics and Jews, specifically to counteract the prejudice and bigotry which were fomented by the KKK. Later, he was a chief designer of the Williamstown Institute of Human Relations, which ran for six years, right up to the outbreak of World War II. At Williamstown, statesmen, educators, clergy, businessmen, scientists, trade unionists, writers, and others studied the causes and cures of intergroup misunderstanding and tensions. These dialogues influenced wide circles of thought throughout the U.S.A.

Mr. Straus foresaw that the West's efforts to outgrow the inequities inherited from age-old political despotism, from feudalism, and from early forms of industrial capitalism, and to push toward social and economic democracy, would inevitably involve Asians and Africans. Thus in 1950, as one of the founders of World Brotherhood, he joined with scientist Arthur H. Compton, statesman Paul-Henri Spaak and Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo in efforts to advance the sense of

the family of man among differing peoples on an earthwide scale. Roger W. Straus demonstrated his faith in its work by his devoted service on the Board of Directors of World Brotherhood, Inc., as well as by generous financial support to various projects.

The proposal herein submitted is thus in line with Mr. Straus' life-long efforts and would represent a most appropriate major project for the Roger Williams Straus Memorial Foundation.

#### PROPOSED PROGRAM

The series of meetings organized by World Brotherhood in Bern last summer had a far greater success and more widespread and lasting influence than could have been anticipated. They demonstrated the extraordinary results that bringing together a distinguished international group of leaders of thought can have, not only on the members of the Working Party and Seminar themselves, but also, through them, on their respective government leaders. Their recommendations, widely disseminated, have been an important factor in creating informed public opinion.

Attached is a copy of the report of the conferences, entitled "Steps Toward Peace", which includes a list of the participants, their report and recommendations, and the texts of the background papers prepared by experts on economic development (Barbara Ward, Arthur Lewis), on intercultural relations (Frank Morison), on discrimination against groups (Herbert H. Lehman) and others. Also attached is a memorandum appraising the lasting value of the Bern sessions and indicating the steps which have been taken as a result of the sessions.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PROJECT

The proven value of meetings of the Bern type has shown the need for other such Working Parties and Seminars to be held in different regions and continents. This fact has been currently recognized by the University of Chicago. Convinced that universities, which have done so much toward scientific and technological progress, have an obligation to put forth special effort to seek a durable peace, the Chancellor and Faculty of the University of Chicago, in cooperation with World Brotherhood, have formulated plans for a program of discussions and a Conference during the coming academic year for the purpose of bringing the intellectual resources of the University and other academic and lay leaders of the world to bear on the major economic, political (non-military), cultural and social conflicts of interests and the tensions between the two major power blocs that dominate the world scene, between the rich and poor nations and among peoples of different races, ideological systems and religious cultures. This series of meetings, to be attended by the most able and influential citizens of North America and by distinguished experts from abroad, is planned on a scale which will make them the most significant and realistic effort yet attempted to analyze these tensions, to create constructive reactions to them and to start a trend toward better human relations and peace.

The outline of the subjects and plan for the Chicago Conference with its preliminary seminars, as drawn up by the Faculty Committee of the University of Chicago, is attached. The University and World Brotherhood are preparing a list of participants appropriate for each of the major fields of the Conference. A number of these would be invited to participate in other regional conferences. The tentative and partial list at present includes the following names:

- (1) Communications: George V. Allen, William Benton, John Cowles, Roscoe Drummond, James William Fulbright, Henry Heald, Kenneth Holland, Walter Lippmann, Henry H. Luce, Dean Rusk, Shepard Stone, Arthur Rays Sulzberger, Henry M. Vriston.
- (2) Inequalities Between Rich and Poor Nations; Economic and Social Development: Eugene Black, David Dubinsky, Peter Grace, Paul Hoffman, Eric Johnston, Arthur Lewis, Luis Munoz Marin (Puerto Rico), John J. McCloy, George Meany, Galo Plaza (former President of Ecuador), Walter Reuther, Nelson Rockefeller, U Thant, Barbara Ward, Arthur K. Watson.
- (3) Rule of Law; Gaps in Rule of Law for Resolution of International Conflicts and Disputes: Thomas E. Dewey, Ernest A. Gross, Philip Jessup, Milton Katz, Arthur Larson, Richard Nixon, Charles E. Rhyne, Charles E. Wyanski,
- (4) General Problems of Tensions: Stanley C. Allyn, Laird Bell, Chester Bowles, Detlev F. Bronk, Martin Buber (University of Jerusalem), Arthur H. Compton, John Sherman Cooper, George Kennan, Herbert H. Lehman, Philip Moseley, John Harbo, Charles H. Percy, S. B. Radhakrishnan, Carlos P. Romulo, Louis S. St. Laurent, Adlai Stevenson.

As a part of the Roger Williams Straus Memorial Foundation project, World Brotherhood proposes to bring to the Conference at the University of Chicago five recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize: Reverend Dominique Georges Pire of Belgium, Lester Pearson of Canada, Albert Schweitzer, Ralph Bunche, and Lord Boyd-Orr of England. Their active participation in the proceedings will contribute creative discussion and give further assurance that the conference will produce recommendations leading to constructive action.

The results of the Bern meetings also clearly demonstrated that forces set in motion in one continent quickly radiate to other continents as well. In order to take full advantage of this fact, plans for the first year include, as

supplements to the University of Chicago Meetings, a South Asian Working Party to be held in Bombay, under the distinguished leadership of Dr. G. L. Mehta, former Ambassador of India to the United States, who served as Chairman of the Horn Working Party. Dr. Mehta's plan, involving participation by non-governmental leaders of South Asian countries and by experts from Europe and North America, has been approved by the All-India Committee of World Brotherhood.

In Europe, plans for the first year include a seminar in Zurich for the members of the ILO Governing Body and other international leaders. This project has recently been discussed with David Morse, Director General of ILO. According to the present proposal, this seminar will consider means by which leaders in government, management and labor groups can <sup>promote</sup> better economic and cultural development and improved interrelationships among nations and peoples.

The two supplemental seminars, though more limited in scope than the Chicago Meetings, are no less important.

In providing support for this series of meetings the Strauss Foundation would have an unparalleled opportunity for constructive use of its resources.

#### WORLD BROTHERHOOD'S CONFERENCE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROJECT

World Brotherhood has fully demonstrated its ability to assume the administrative responsibilities of a program of this nature. It has achieved a dignified and influential place among non-governmental organizations and has received world-wide recognition as an effective organization for increased international understanding. It is in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, as well as with UNESCO. It has received commendation from the U. S. Department of State and the U.S.I.A.

It has international officers of the highest level and, as has been fully proved, it can draw into its work the most distinguished leaders from all fields of interest and from all countries. These leaders are not only the world's idealists and philosophers, but also practical businessmen, jurists, teachers, bankers, statesmen, and international men of affairs. Attached is a summary of the Development and Activities of World Brotherhood, Inc. for the Years 1956 through 1958. The future plans will involve the participation of a number of the remarkable group which met at Bern and of others of equally high calibre.

This project would have, in addition, the counsel of Governor Dewey, Mrs. Gladys G. Straus and other Trustees of the Straus Foundation. With these influential volunteer participants and with its experienced officers and qualified staff, World Brotherhood is equipped to carry out the events of this plan in accordance with the highest standards of inspiring leadership and professional competence.

#### FINANCING THE PROGRAM

The Roger Williams Straus Foundation is requested to consider this memorandum as a formal application for a grant of \$110,000 to World Brotherhood, to cover the year's program as described above.

It should be noted that among the costs of the series of Seminars and Working Parties are those of printing the reports and background papers and their world-wide distribution through institutions and organizations, as is the case of the Bern Meetings. (See memorandum on "Lasting Value of the World Brotherhood Bern Meetings".) Some of the materials may lend themselves to publication in book form. The reports and other papers are important permanent results of these



meetings and are essential elements in the wide impact and lasting value of the conferences.

The entire project rests upon the conviction expressed by President Eisenhower that while the central responsibility for progress toward peace rests with governments, there is much that private citizens and non-governmental organizations should, can, and must do. Unofficial, non-governmental meetings, such as have been planned, permit a more frank and free exchange of ideas and lead to a better mutual understanding of problems than is possible in an official atmosphere and can prepare the way for agreement and constructive action in government circles.

In this entire program due credit will be given to the Foundation. It is the conviction of the officers of World Brotherhood that no project would be more consistent with the life-work of Roger Straus, bring more honor to his memory and to the Foundation, or contribute so much to the progress of mankind toward genuine brotherhood and peace.

It is our hope that after the success and value of the projects described above have been demonstrated, the Foundation will wish to continue its support of the program which would include in its second year seminars at an East Coast university (Harvard or Princeton), a West Coast university (University of Oregon), and a South American Seminar, and in its third year a seminar in the Southern part of the U.S.A. and an African Working Party. The costs for the second and third year are estimated at present as approximately \$100,000 for each year.

S C H E D U L E

PROPOSED BUDGET APPROPRIATION OF THE ROGER WILLIAMS STRAUS FOUNDATION  
FOR SPECIAL SEMINARS, AND CONFERENCES  
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Academic Year 1959/60

(Figures include preparation, honoraria for experts preparing  
working documents, administration, conducting the program, and  
publication of reports and papers)

1959/60

For University of Chicago-World Brotherhood Seminars and Conference: to bring Nobel Peace Prize Winners to Conference and cover other costs of meetings	\$ 75,000
For the meetings in Europe (Zurich) to follow up the Bern and Chicago Conferences	15,000
For the Southeast Asia Working Party to supplement the Chicago meetings	20,000
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	\$ 110,000

Note:

Detailed budget for each project will be submitted with  
final draft of the proposal.